

EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Monday, November 26, 2012

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

Caring about the Schuylkill

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (Sunday) Philadelphians allowed the river to decline. But the fish are back, the Water Works is restored, and more improvements are on the way. When we ruin the Schuylkill, we ruin ourselves. We become, as we once were, a city with a stench, a city that festers. We forfeit all three faces of time - the past, the present, the future. Remarkable things happen, however, when we care. When, for example, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission collaborated with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Philadelphia Water Department to ladder the Schuylkill for American shad, striped bass, tiger muskellunge, and perch, and fisherpeople returned to the river's shore. When Ernesta Drinker Ballard campaigned to restore the abandoned, crusty Fairmount Water Works (once a recognized jewel, once an international destination), and won. When the Schuylkill River Development Corp. set its mind on creating an actual riverfront destination - river access, river walks, river events, bridge enhancements, trails - and saw the vision through. We allowed our river to become an offensive stew, but she's hardly that anymore. We killed the fish, but they're back. We abandoned Frederick Graff's magnificent Water Works until, in 2003, it was rechristened as the Philadelphia Water Department's Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (FWWIC) and became the place where the story of the river and its watershed gets told. Where does the river go, and how does it feed us? Why does it matter how we treat her? Who is responsible for keeping rivers safe? What happens every time we forget?

Marcellus Shale producers making the switch to cleaner rigs

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (Sunday) JACKSONBURG, W.Va. - Almost all the natural gas produced in the Marcellus Shale - billed by its advocates as the clean, domestic fuel of the future - is extracted from the earth using dirty diesel fuel derived from imported oil. Some Marcellus Shale producers are beginning to practice what they preach: switching to gas-powered drilling rigs that are cleaner, quieter, and cost less than diesels. On a remote hilltop in northern West Virginia, EQT Corp. began operating a rig in July powered by liquefied natural gas, which is brought in by tanker trucks from Pennsylvania. EQT operates a second rig in West Virginia powered by tapping into pipelines that carry "field gas" - unprocessed natural gas - from nearby wells. Energy Corp. of America launched a bifuel rig last year that can run on diesel or field gas. Consol Energy has two dual-fuel systems in operation in Greene County, Pa. In northern Pennsylvania, Seneca Resources Corp. announced last month it had converted two of its rigs to operate on natural gas. Marcellus producers are under increasing pressure from activists and environmental regulators to curtail emissions, including the intensive, short-term pollution caused by drilling, as well as the ongoing emissions from processing and transporting the fuel once wells are completed. "We want to be a leader in reducing the environmental impacts related to drilling," said Steve Schlotterbeck, EQT's president of exploration and production. A single drill rig can consume

up to 80 gallons of diesel an hour to run its massive electrical generators, which produce enough power to light 2,000 homes. Compared to diesel, a natural-gas rig emits 20 percent to 30 percent less carbon dioxide. It emits a small fraction of the nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and particulates.

Gas-fired plants planned as coal facilities retired

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE (Saturday) Analysts say lower prices, demand could keep new sites from being built. Nine new natural gas power plants are planned in Pennsylvania, more than making up for the loss of power generation caused by the retirement of 12 old coal-burning power plants, according to state regulators. But industry analysts say lower power demand and uncertainty over natural gas prices will likely keep more than half of the new gas-burning power plants on the drawing board and out of operation, at least for the foreseeable future. State Department of Environmental Protection data show the proposed gas-burning facilities undergoing permit review will have a total electricity generating capacity of a little less than 8,000 megawatts, while the 12 coal-fired power plants scheduled for shutdown by April 2015 have a capacity of just under 4,000 megawatts. DEP Secretary Michael Krancer said last week in Pittsburgh at the Developing Unconventional Gas conference that he expects natural gas-fired electric generation "will be huge" in Pennsylvania. And Kevin Sunday, a DEP spokesman, said he anticipates more proposals for gas-fired electricity generation. According to power industry data, electricity from burning natural gas increased from 12.8 percent of the total generated in June 2011 to 19.1 percent in June 2012, in the PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization that coordinates wholesale electricity distribution for 60 million people in the District of Columbia and 13 mid-Atlantic states, including Pennsylvania.

Rural Communities Say They Cannot Afford Chesapeake Bay Controls

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT Rural communities in New York say they are in a bind when it comes to accessing funding for infrastructure upgrades to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges from their wastewater treatment plants to meet the total maximum daily load plan for the Chesapeake Bay, according to a recent National Rural Water Association survey. The association, which represents rural water utilities' interests, surveyed the towns of Cortland, Hamilton, and Marcellus and found that all three towns were ill-equipped to finance expansion or upgrading of wastewater treatment plants to cut discharges of the nutrients, Mike Keegan, the group's policy analyst, told BNA Nov. 20. NRWA said Marcellus would incur \$2 million, while Hamilton would incur \$6 million in costs to add technologies at wastewater treatment plants to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges to meet the state share of the TMDL plan for the Chesapeake Bay. The survey was conducted Nov. 13-14, according to the association. Keegan said the association found that the experience of the rural communities in not being able to afford the costly upgrades to wastewater treatment plants to meet nutrient limits was not unique to New York.

"It is a complaint that we are increasingly hearing from communities all over as more and more total daily maximum load plans are being developed and implemented," Keegan said. A TMDL plan calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive from a point source, such as a wastewater treatment plant, and a nonpoint source, such as a farm, and still meet water quality standards. New York, five other states, and the District of Columbia are obligated to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loading to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries under an EPA-ordered total maximum daily load plan. Nitrogen and phosphorus discharges ca

Editorial: Future: Coal will recede

CHARLESTON GAZETTE A major coal industry consultant, geologist Alan Stagg of Cross Lanes, recently told a Pittsburgh conference that Central Appalachian coal "is going to run out some day" because thick, easy-to-reach, inexpensive seams nearly are gone, leaving only costly coal. "This is the elephant in the room," he declared. "No one wants to acknowledge that reserve depletion is profound. Mining conditions are difficult, and the cost to produce is high. That is a physical fact. It's not pleasant. Nobody wants to acknowledge it. That is a fact, and companies that ignore that fact will not do so well." In a follow-up interview with *The State Journal*, Stagg reiterated: "If you look at production for Central Appalachia, it keeps coming down. Northern Appalachian

production keeps coming down. All of Appalachia keeps coming down." He said "glory days" won't return. Central Appalachia -- mostly southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky -- produced 24 percent of America's coal in 2000, but only 17 percent in 2010. Federal experts predict that the region's output will sink from 186 million tons in 2010 to just 72 million by 2024. West Virginia produced 157.8 million tons in 2008, but the U.S. Energy Information Agency forecasts a decline to 90 million by 2020. Stagg said pollution controls have little to do with the steady loss. Cheap Wyoming coal undercuts Appalachia, and cheap Marcellus gas is causing electric utilities to switch to gas fuel. "It's about markets," the specialist said, adding: "You've got coal-fired plants that are closing. Some have been on the board for five years or more to be closed. They're old. They're inefficient. It's no secret." Reporter Ken Ward Jr. outlined last week that 288 aging U.S. power-generating units (plants or parts of plants) are scheduled to be retired soon -- and the Union of Concerned Scientists says 353 more should be mothballed. An Appalachian transition seems visible. Coal corporation stock prices are sinking. Hundreds of West Virginia miners have been laid off this year, inflicting agony on coal communities. Some West Virginia leaders remain blind to what's occurring. They blame all the trouble on federal pollution controls. But the governor and Legislature should face reality. They should launch in-depth studies to pinpoint facts about the looming change, and also plan the best approaches to the state's economic future.

Rural road program aims to keep dirty runoff out of streams amid drilling boom

WILKES-BARRE CITIZENS VOICE (Sunday) DIMOCK TWP. - Everywhere Tim Ziegler travels dirt tracks and gravel roads in rural Pennsylvania, he sees an insidious threat of pollution beneath his tires. Sediment is the largest pollutant by volume in the commonwealth's streams, degrading water quality, smothering natural vegetation and destroying fish habitat. Worn dirt roads and their ditches are a potent source of grit and Pennsylvania has more than 20,000 miles of them. Ziegler has driven many of those stretches, spreading the gospel of drainage. He works for the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Penn State University, which helps townships, companies and other agencies build and maintain unpaved roads in an environmentally protective way. Its toll-free number is 1-866-NO-TO-MUD. The highest density of dirt roads in the state coincides with the richest spots for Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling and Ziegler's work in recent years has focused on that intersection. Shale development presents both a challenge and an opportunity for rural road infrastructure: Heavy haulers rut the roads, but posted and bonded thoroughfares have to be returned to their prior condition and companies routinely strengthen the roads before they run trucks on them or improve them beyond their previous state. The Marcellus Shale Coalition calculated that its member companies spent more than \$411 million on road construction in Pennsylvania between 2008 and the middle of 2011. The problem, Ziegler said, is that much of the companies' attention and money has been spent reinforcing the roads' surface while leaving the old drainage infrastructure in place. The hardened, widened roads increase the amount of runoff during rainstorms, exacerbating existing sediment pollution pathways and adding to the likelihood and severity of flash flooding in nearby streams. "There's an opportunity that we're losing here," he said.

Natural gas drillers target U.S. truck, bus market

ASSOCIATED PRESS SCRANTON, Pa. -- If the trash truck or bus rolling down your street seems a little quieter these days, you're not imagining things. It's probably running on natural gas. Surging gas production has led the drilling industry to seek out new markets for its product, and energy companies, increasingly, are setting their sights on the transportation sector. Touting natural gas as a cheaper, cleaner-burning alternative to gasoline and diesel, drillers, public utilities and government officials are trying to boost demand for natural gas buses, taxis, shuttles, delivery trucks and heavy-duty work vehicles of all sorts, while simultaneously encouraging development of the fueling infrastructure that will be needed to keep them running. The economics are compelling. Natural gas costs about \$1.50 to \$2 per gallon equivalent less than gasoline and diesel. That can add up to tens of thousands of dollars in savings for vehicles that guzzle the most fuel. Fleet managers are taking notice. Companies as diverse as AT&T, Waste Management and UPS are converting all or parts of their fleets to natural gas, as are transit agencies, municipalities and state governments. "Now that you can save a dollar or two dollars a gallon, there's huge interest

in the market, especially in those fleets that use a lot of fuel," said Richard Kolodziej, president of the trade group Natural Gas Vehicles for America.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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Reducing gas emissions (Video) EQT, a natural gas drilling and distribution company headquartered in Pittsburgh, is working to reduce gas emissions while drilling in the Marcellus Shale

Banishing the ugly butts Tom Szaky collects the most disgusting things. Yucky yogurt containers. Sticky candy wrappers. Old flip-flops. Now, he and his Trenton company, TerraCycle, are onto a new one: cigarette butts, the most common litter items on the planet. (And much, *much* worse items, but that comes later.) So bring 'em on. Let neither stinkiness nor sogginess nor other manner of nastiness be a barrier. Once in hand, the company will "sanitize" and sort the butts, sending the paper and tobacco to a specialty tobacco composter. The filters will be

melted and re-formed into pellets, eventually to end up as two different but butt-worthy items - ashtrays and park benches. For every 1,000 butts sent in by a TerraCycle member (find out more at www.terracycle.com), a dollar will go to the national anti-littering nonprofit, Keep America Beautiful.

PHILADELPHIA SUNDAY SUN

City of Phila. encourages applications for green infrastructure competition The Philadelphia Water Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Community Design Collaborative have partnered to launch a national, interdisciplinary design competition promoting the creative and innovative use of green storm water infrastructure in Philadelphia and other cities. The design competition is part of Infill Philadelphia: Soak it Up!—a design initiative exploring how green storm water infrastructure can revitalize urban neighborhoods. Design teams must register by Friday, November 30, 2012. Nine finalists will be selected to present at an awards event at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University next year. A jury will select one winning design for each of the three sites. The three winning competition teams will each receive a cash prize of \$10,000.... Green storm water infrastructure is crucial to the implementation of Green City, Clean Waters, the City's innovative, environmentally sustainable, 25-year plan to protect and enhance local waterways primarily through the use of green storm water infrastructure. "As we evolve Philadelphia into America's most sustainable and green city, the opportunities ahead will be limited only by the confines of our imaginations and the extent of our determination," says Howard Neukrug, Commissioner of the Philadelphia Water Department. "Our partnership with Philadelphia represents the EPA's firm commitment to encourage, support, and assist municipalities that adopt green infrastructure to improve both water quality and the sustainability of their communities," says EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Gas-fired plants planned as coal facilities retired Analysts say lower prices, demand could keep new sites from being built. Nine new natural gas power plants are planned in Pennsylvania, more than making up for the loss of power generation caused by the retirement of 12 old coal-burning power plants, according to state regulators. But industry analysts say lower power demand and uncertainty over natural gas prices will likely keep more than half of the new gas-burning power plants on the drawing board and out of operation, at least for the foreseeable future. State Department of Environmental Protection data show the proposed gas-burning facilities undergoing permit review will have a total electricity generating capacity of a little less than 8,000 megawatts, while the 12 coal-fired power plants scheduled for shutdown by April 2015 have a capacity of just under 4,000 megawatts. DEP Secretary Michael Krancer said last week in Pittsburgh at the Developing Unconventional Gas conference that he expects natural gas-fired electric generation "will be huge" in Pennsylvania. And Kevin Sunday, a DEP spokesman, said he anticipates more proposals for gas-fired electricity generation. According to power industry data, electricity from burning natural gas increased from 12.8 percent of the total generated in June 2011 to 19.1 percent in June 2012, in the PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization that coordinates wholesale electricity distribution for 60 million people in the District of Columbia and 13 mid-Atlantic states, including Pennsylvania.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Army Corps to tackle Parks nuke cleanup with new leaders The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to award a new contract for the cleanup of the nuclear waste dump along Route 66 in Parks by October. The corps will hold a meeting Tuesday in Parks to introduce the new commander of its Pittsburgh District, Col. Bernard Lindstrom, who will officially take command on Jan. 11, according to Dan Jones, corps spokesman. Among other duties, Lindstrom and the corps' new project manager, Mike Helbling of Murrysville, will lead the cleanup of the nuclear waste dump, owned by BWX Technologies (also known as Babcock & Wilcox), which is expected to take about a decade and cost up to \$500 million. The waste dump along Route 66, formally known as the Shallow Land Disposal Area, received radioactive and chemical waste from about 1960 to the early 1970s from the former Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corp. in Apollo and Parks, and its successor, the Atlantic Richfield Co. Those companies produced nuclear fuel for submarines and a range of nuclear products for the federal government and private industry. Cleanup operations halted shortly after they began at the 44-acre site in fall 2011 when a contractor allegedly mishandled some nuclear waste and workers unearthed unexpected quantities of "complex" nuclear materials.

Given the greater complexity of the cleanup and soaring cost estimates, corps headquarters in Washington reconsidered its lead position in the cleanup earlier this year.

Shale money to buy pagers New paging equipment for the Westmoreland County emergency dispatch center will be the first purchase made with Marcellus shale impact fees. County commissioners allocated more than \$300,000 for new equipment to bring the county into compliance with a federal mandate to update the radio paging system. Earlier this month, the county set aside \$1.4 million from the gas drilling fees to be used for a variety of projects. "It's something we need to do," Commissioner Ted Kopas said. The emergency dispatch upgrade is necessary to meet a Federal Communications Commission mandate to condense dispatching radio bands. Public Safety Department spokesman Dan Stevens said the money will pay to update transmitters on each of the county's 10 dispatching towers.

Alcosan targeting young future workers in hopes of landing talent If young Dontae Hall ever visits Niagara Falls, he'd be more interested in seeing hydroelectric turbines than taking a side trip to a wax museum or amusement park. "The turbines are what I'd really like to see," Hall, 16, a junior at Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy in Oakland, said during a recent tour of the renewable energy lab at the West Hills campus of Community College of Allegheny County in Oakdale. Hall is one of about three dozen students enrolled in Pittsburgh Pipeline, a state-funded program run by the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority. It offers summer programs and tours of facilities related to the water and energy industries. Alcosan's interest in young students is no accident. Although they are too young to work now, such scientifically and mechanically inclined students will become increasingly important to Alcosan in the next 15 years as it embarks on a \$2 billion plan to upgrade the region's wastewater treatment system. To meet the labor and engineering demands of the biggest public works project in the history of Western Pennsylvania, Alcosan is running after-school and summer programs, and has started visiting middle schools to interest students in jobs for the project.

2 farms enter Westmoreland County agricultural preservation program Tucked behind the retail stores, restaurants and housing developments near the junction of Routes 22 and 66 is a 132-acre dairy and crop farm. The land split, between Salem and Penn townships, has been in John McIlvaine's family for more than 100 years. He plans to keep it that way. "Who wants Westmoreland County with all houses and asphalt roads?" asked McIlvaine, a fifth-generation farmer, who owns the land with wife Mary Ann McIlvaine. "We have enough of them." County commissioners last week approved the purchase of agricultural conservation easements for two farms: the McIlvaines' and 160 acres in Washington Township owned by Edward and Nancy Krokosky. The final steps in the process should be completed by the end of the year, officially preserving both parcels, said Betty Reefer, director of the Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Tucked behind the retail stores, restaurants and housing developments near the junction of Routes 22 and 66 is a 132-acre dairy and crop farm.

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

Symbol of PA gas drilling opposition succumbs to offer of money (Sunday) You have to give Denise Dennis some credit. She did not come cheap. The price tag she put on her virtue is about the same as the amount Gov. Tom Corbett took to sell his soul — or Pennsylvania's soul, that is — to the gas drilling robber barons of Texas. Because of her family legacy, however, some might feel Dennis should not have compromised her integrity at any price. A Philadelphia Inquirer story, published in Friday's edition of The Morning Call, said that Dennis, as recently as 2010, was a prominent opponent of the gas drilling boom sweeping across Pennsylvania's portion of the gas-bearing Marcellus Shale formation. "The process for extracting natural gas from shale is as dirty as coal mining," she was quoted as saying at a meeting of Philadelphia City Council. (That city is concerned about drilling because the robber barons want to add the Delaware River watershed to the vast areas already ravaged by hydraulic fracturing, often called fracking, which forces millions of gallons of chemical-laced water deep underground at each well. The putrid concoction breaks up rocks so they release gas, and much of it often returns to the surface to threaten streams.) Dennis, who lives in Philadelphia, is a descendant of a key figure in the state's history. She is the great-

great-great-great-granddaughter of Prince Perkins, a Revolutionary War veteran who was among the settlers of what is now Susquehanna County in northeastern Pennsylvania. Her family, the story said, owns a 153-acre farm in that county just five miles from Dimock, a town made famous when residents complained about their well water being contaminated by the Cabot Oil and Gas outfit from Texas. Corbett's state regulators said Cabot was not to blame, but a documentary film showed how the residents could ignite the water coming out of their faucets. Lawsuits were filed but Cabot and the residents reached a settlement, leaving much of the rest of the state in legal limbo.

Tax credit essential for clean energy industry One of our country's most successful clean energy policies is on the verge of expiring and taking many jobs with it. The production tax credit has driven significant growth in domestic wind energy manufacturing and helps the United States to maintain our competitiveness in the global clean energy market. But if Congress does not renew this tax credit before it expires at the end of this year, companies like ours may be forced to make some very hard decisions. Small businesses know that one of the best ways to reduce the price of goods is through scale. Clean energy works the same way — the more we invest now, the more prices will fall in the future as more wind turbines are built. National policies give investors assurance that there will be a market for their goods in the future, which leads to increased production. However, without any assurance that the tax credit will be renewed, orders for new wind turbines are already drying up and manufacturers are laying off workers.

WILKES-BARRE CITIZENS VOICE

Rural road program aims to keep dirty runoff out of streams amid drilling boom (Sunday) DIMOCK TWP. - Everywhere Tim Ziegler travels dirt tracks and gravel roads in rural Pennsylvania, he sees an insidious threat of pollution beneath his tires. Sediment is the largest pollutant by volume in the commonwealth's streams, degrading water quality, smothering natural vegetation and destroying fish habitat. Worn dirt roads and their ditches are a potent source of grit and Pennsylvania has more than 20,000 miles of them. Ziegler has driven many of those stretches, spreading the gospel of drainage. He works for the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Penn State University, which helps townships, companies and other agencies build and maintain unpaved roads in an environmentally protective way. Its toll-free number is 1-866-NO-TO-MUD. The highest density of dirt roads in the state coincides with the richest spots for Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling and Ziegler's work in recent years has focused on that intersection. Shale development presents both a challenge and an opportunity for rural road infrastructure: Heavy haulers rut the roads, but posted and bonded thoroughfares have to be returned to their prior condition and companies routinely strengthen the roads before they run trucks on them or improve them beyond their previous state. The Marcellus Shale Coalition calculated that its member companies spent more than \$411 million on road construction in Pennsylvania between 2008 and the middle of 2011. The problem, Ziegler said, is that much of the companies' attention and money has been spent reinforcing the roads' surface while leaving the old drainage infrastructure in place. The hardened, widened roads increase the amount of runoff during rainstorms, exacerbating existing sediment pollution pathways and adding to the likelihood and severity of flash flooding in nearby streams. "There's an opportunity that we're losing here," he said.

ERIE TIMES NEWS

As many as 750,000 deer hunters in Pennsylvania's woods today As many as 750,000 hunters are expected to be in the woods for today's opening day of the Pennsylvania general deer season. Hunting season in most of the state runs through Dec. 8. "In addition to being a rich part of our state's heritage, deer season is critical in managing Pennsylvania's whitetails," said Carl G. Roe, Pennsylvania Game Commission executive director. "The efforts of hunters are far-reaching; they help to keep deer populations in check, and enable the agency to meet deer management goals that benefit those who reside, visit or travel through this state.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Natural gas drillers target U.S. truck, bus market SCRANTON, Pa. -- If the trash truck or bus rolling down your street seems a little quieter these days, you're not imagining things. It's probably running on natural gas. Surging

gas production has led the drilling industry to seek out new markets for its product, and energy companies, increasingly, are setting their sights on the transportation sector. Touting natural gas as a cheaper, cleaner-burning alternative to gasoline and diesel, drillers, public utilities and government officials are trying to boost demand for natural gas buses, taxis, shuttles, delivery trucks and heavy-duty work vehicles of all sorts, while simultaneously encouraging development of the fueling infrastructure that will be needed to keep them running. The economics are compelling. Natural gas costs about \$1.50 to \$2 per gallon equivalent less than gasoline and diesel. That can add up to tens of thousands of dollars in savings for vehicles that guzzle the most fuel. Fleet managers are taking notice. Companies as diverse as AT&T, Waste Management and UPS are converting all or parts of their fleets to natural gas, as are transit agencies, municipalities and state governments. "Now that you can save a dollar or two dollars a gallon, there's huge interest in the market, especially in those fleets that use a lot of fuel," said Richard Kolodziej, president of the trade group Natural Gas Vehicles for America.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Outdoors bill angers some environmentalists Making life better for fish and wildlife and the people who hunt them lies at the heart of the Sportsmen's Act of 2012, the bill that covers everything from habitat conservation to transporting bows through national parks, which is likely to be approved by the Senate on Monday. But though the bill enjoys broad, bipartisan support, some environmentalists are not happy with it. The bill ensures that lead can continue to be used in ammunition, which they say poisons some wildlife, and it specifically says that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot regulate components "used in shot, bullets and other projectiles," such as bullets and fishing tackle. The wording aimed at the EPA is so broad that opponents of the bill say it could block the agency from regulating, for example, perchlorate, a component of explosives and rocket fuel that has been linked to thyroid problems in children and pregnant women and has been found in drinking water in 35 states. And, in this grab bag of a bill, there's the issue of polar bear trophies. The federal government banned the importation of polar bear pelts four years ago, when it listed the species under the Endangered Species Act. The Sportsmen's Act, however, allows a one-time importation of 41 polar bear trophies killed in Canada by U.S. hunters before 2008. Those trophies — tanned skin and claws, skull and the traditionally prized penis bone — have been in cold storage in Canada. The Sportsman's Act, authored by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) is a collection of 17 provisions that would seem to have something for everyone.

Climate skeptics target states' energy laws Getting electricity from renewable sources called tax. WASHINGTON -- The Heartland Institute, a libertarian think tank that is skeptical of climate change science, has joined with the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council to write model legislation aimed at reversing state renewable energy mandates across the country. The Electricity Freedom Act, adopted by the council's board of directors in October, would repeal state standards requiring utilities to get a portion of their electricity from renewable power, calling it "essentially a tax on consumers of electricity." Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia have binding renewable standards; in the absence of federal climate legislation, these initiatives have become the subject of intense political battles. The legislative council, or ALEC, is a conservative-leaning group of state legislators from all 50 states that has sought to roll back climate regulation in the past. It lost some corporate sponsors early this year because of its role promoting "stand your ground" laws that allow the use of force in self-defense without first retreating when faced with a serious threat. But the involvement of the Heartland Institute, which posted a billboard in May comparing those who believe in global warming to domestic terrorist Theodore Kaczynski, shows the breadth of conservatives' efforts to undermine environmental initiatives on the state and federal level. In many cases, the groups involved accept money from oil, gas and coal companies that compete against renewable energy suppliers. The Heartland Institute received more than \$7.3 million from Exxon Mobil between 1998 and 2010, and nearly \$14.4 million between 1986 and 2010 from foundations affiliated with Charles and David Koch, whose firm Koch Industries has substantial oil and energy holdings.

The demise of coal-fired power plants (Friday) In SALEM, Mass. — Peter Furniss, the fair-haired chief executive of Footprint Power, gives a tour of the aging coal and oil plant that towers over sailboats in this historic harbor. The

Ivy League-educated lawyer, clad in unsoiled work boots and a pinstripe jacket, circles a mound of coal and walks inside a rusting oil storage tank. He gingerly steps into a tunnel where a conveyor belt carries coal into the plant's furnaces. Inside the plant, Furniss points out the Roman arches and graceful columns in the turbine room and the half-century-old control panel, an antique compared with the computers that run equipment now. He shows off the boilers and pulverizers. Finally, from the roof, he surveys the scenic coastline, which fades into the autumn fog. For years, this coal plant — known as one of the state's "filthy five" — has flirted with closure and avoided a costly overhaul that would bring its toxic emissions in line with modern pollution standards. In 2003, Gov. Mitt Romney (R) stood in front of the plant and declared: "I will not create jobs that kill people. That plant kills people."

Letter: Skip the drilling in Va. Regarding the Nov. 21 Metro article "Harboring hope on Tangier Island": It is sadly ironic that an Army Corps of Engineers official, visiting Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay with Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R), acknowledged, "You can't fight nature — eventually the island will be submerged." While on the visit, Mr. McDonnell announced plans to spend millions of dollars to build a jetty to delay Tangier's disappearance. But the governor and other Virginia politicians, including Sens. Mark Warner (D) and Jim Webb (D) and Sen.-elect Tim Kaine (D), are ignoring nature's clear signals when they push to open Virginia's coast to oil drilling. Our politicians need to face up to the reality that burning fossil fuels is the major cause of global warming and the resulting sea-level rise, more frequent and severe storms, and immeasurable economic damage. Virginia needs to exploit its tremendous capacity for offshore wind, not drill for oil.

Commentary: A plan to dodge the 'fiscal cliff' In business I found that a challenging environment often produced our best opportunities. Perhaps that's why I see the so-called "fiscal cliff" of year-end spending cuts and tax increases not as an impassable precipice but as our best opportunity to finally enact meaningful fiscal reform. I hear Washington watchers and people in the hallways of Congress saying there is not enough time to get this done this year. I disagree. The hard part has already been done. Over the past two years, the options for reaching a \$4 trillion deficit reduction deal have been drafted, charted, graphed, circulated, evaluated, dissected, leaked, reported, debated and then put on the shelf for another day.

WASHINGTON TIMES

Commentary: EPA administrators invent excuses to avoid transparency The Environmental Protection Agency is the latest Obama bureaucracy exposed for embarrassing efforts to avert transparency. Its administrator, Lisa Jackson, has been using the email alias "Richard Windsor" to conduct agency business, which might allow some policy conversations to avoid scrutiny and circumvent public records laws. So far, the EPA has offered a two-part defense of such accounts, first revealed in my new book, "The Liberal War on Transparency." First, everybody does it: "For more than a decade, EPA administrators have been assigned two official, government-issued email accounts: a public account and an internal account." Second, the masses made us do it: the overwhelming volume of mail an administrator would receive from the public meant she needed an account she would actually read and write from. Both excuses, though slight on detail, prove too much. Consider what lies behind the anodyne phrase "for more than a decade." While researching my book, I discovered a 2008 EPA memo to the national archivist reporting a records management problem. The agency had discovered "secondary" nonpublic email accounts for EPA administrators instigated earlier, under and with the active participation of Clinton-era EPA administrator Carol Browner.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Editorial: Hard questions about rebuilding our shoreline The thinking behind rebuilding after Superstorm Sandy as well as pre-building for the next super storm raises the same question: What is the public interest? First, the obvious answer is emergency systems that failed must be corrected and built anew. Lives must be saved. Hospitals must be

able to operate. The same thing is true about failed networks, such as cellphone service. Since we are so dependent on our rescue and communications systems, what needs to be done to ensure their resilience to the next storm? But the next point, the one about infrastructure to hold back the sea, must be approached differently. Obviously the shoring up of New York City's defenses against the sea involves a deep interest on the part of New Yorkers. The safety of the city, its economic life involving thousands of people, a transportation system and the heart of the nation's financial system make building barriers a logical goal. Even when the citizens are agreed on what must be done, there is little agreement about how or where. As Michael Kimmelman, a critic for The New York Times, wrote this week that rebuilding on such a scale would take something in short supply, civic unity.

Engineer to study fix to Prime Hook flooding State environmental officials will hire a coastal engineer to see if there is a quick fix - such as some type of shoreline armoring - to help stop persistent flooding and road overwash at the Prime Hook Beach community just south of shoreline breaches tha

Dogfish plan approvedThe folks at Dogfish Head Craft Brewery have another reason to be thankful this holiday season, as town planners have given final approval to a 26,661-square-foot expansion to its existing facility.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Editorial: Future: Coal will recede A major coal industry consultant, geologist Alan Stagg of Cross Lanes, recently told a Pittsburgh conference that Central Appalachian coal "is going to run out some day" because thick, easy-to-reach, inexpensive seams nearly are gone, leaving only costly coal. "This is the elephant in the room," he declared. "No one wants to acknowledge that reserve depletion is profound. Mining conditions are difficult, and the cost to produce is high. That is a physical fact. It's not pleasant. Nobody wants to acknowledge it. That is a fact, and companies that ignore that fact will not do so well." In a follow-up interview with *The State Journal*, Stagg reiterated: "If you look at production for Central Appalachia, it keeps coming down. Northern Appalachian production keeps coming down. All of Appalachia keeps coming down." He said "glory days" won't return. Central Appalachia -- mostly southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky -- produced 24 percent of America's coal in 2000, but only 17 percent in 2010. Federal experts predict that the region's output will sink from 186 million tons in 2010 to just 72 million by 2024. West Virginia produced 157.8 million tons in 2008, but the U.S. Energy Information Agency forecasts a decline to 90 million by 2020. Stagg said pollution controls have little to do with the steady loss. Cheap Wyoming coal undercuts Appalachia, and cheap Marcellus gas is causing electric utilities to switch to gas fuel. "It's about markets," the specialist said, adding: "You've got coal-fired plants that are closing. Some have been on the board for five years or more to be closed. They're old. They're inefficient. It's no secret." Reporter Ken Ward Jr. outlined last week that 288 aging U.S. power-generating units (plants or parts of plants) are scheduled to be retired soon -- and the Union of Concerned Scientists says 353 more should be mothballed. An Appalachian transition seems visible. Coal corporation stock prices are sinking. Hundreds of West Virginia miners have been laid off this year, inflicting agony on coal communities. Some West Virginia leaders remain blind to what's occurring. They blame all the trouble on federal pollution controls. But the governor and Legislature should face reality. They should launch in-depth studies to pinpoint facts about the looming change, and also plan the best approaches to the state's economic future.

Recycled wind turbine tower now lighthouse at Summersville Lake MOUNT NEBO, W.Va. -- What began as a dream more than three years ago is now towering 104 feet above a slope overlooking a corner of Summersville Lake, drawing camera-wielding visitors off nearby U.S. 19 like a ... well, like a lighthouse along a scenic coastal highway. "Every time I take the 122 steps to the top, I feel like Huck Finn -- it's a heckuva tree house," said Steve Keblesh, who with his wife, Donna, oversaw the development of the recently erected Summersville Lake

Lighthouse at their Summersville Lake Retreat near Mount Nebo. The Kebleshes initially envisioned building an eye-catching forest fire tower on a high point on their property before settling on a more nautical theme. "We thought a fire tower would fit in nicely with our camping theme, and we even looked at buying one of the surplus fire towers the state of Virginia was auctioning off a few years ago, until our insurance people told us it wasn't a great idea," Steve Keblesh said. "But about the same time that plan was falling through, another one fell into place - or at least rolled down the mountain."

HUNTINGTON HERALD DISPATCH

Editorial: Wayne County needs a connection to trails system People come from all over the Eastern United States to enjoy whitewater rafting and skiing in West Virginia. But those are not the only forms of outdoor recreation on the rise. Since opening in 2000, the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System has shown that the state can be a national destination for ATV, dirt-biking and utility vehicle enthusiasts as well. With 600 miles of trails in Boone, Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyoming counties, the system has over the last decade sold more than 200,000 trail permits to visitors, most of whom come from other states. That is translating into tourism dollars for those counties. About 40 new lodging businesses have opened, along with restaurants and ATV outfitters, and officials say there is still room to grow. "We think this is one of the best entrepreneurial opportunities for folks in the state," said Jeffrey Lusk, executive director of the Hatfield-McCoy system. "During our peak season, there are far more folks wanting to come here than beds for them." There also is an interest in expanding the trail system into Wayne County and linking it to the recreational water sports potential of East Lynn and Beech Fork lakes. State funding already has been targeted to develop areas around southern Wayne County for trails.

BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

Coal business challenged BLUEFIELD — According to W.R. "Pete" Cooke, during the Great Depression, C.H. Archer, a former superintendent of Bluefield public schools, would take students out of class on an impromptu field trip to the Bluefield railroad yard any time the tracks were filled with coal cars. Cooke said that Archer felt strongly that the loaded coal cars were a symbol of prosperity. In recent weeks, the Norfolk Southern Railway's Bluefield yard has seen a lot more empty coal hopper cars than full, as shipments of metallurgical coal from southern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia have slowed by 22 percent in the third quarter, according to information released by Don Seale, NS Corp. executive vice president, chief marketing officer. Seale's statements as well as statements by other NS executives were part of the Oct. 23, NS Corp. Earnings Conference Call. "As we've seen in the last few quarters, competition from natural gas and weaker demand for electricity continued to impact our utility volumes," Seale stated according to edited transcripts of the conference call. "Export volumes fell 28 percent sequentially from the second quarter to the third quarter as the global met coal market weakened materially. Also, our participation in the export thermal coal market weakened during the third quarter as well with export thermal shipments representing only 17 percent of our total export volume in the quarter versus 29 percent of our export volume in the second quarter."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

Eastern Panhandles growth may not boost influence MARTINSBURG, W.Va. -- The Eastern Panhandle gained two seats in the House of Delegates, thanks to its population growth. But some lawmakers and political observers say the region still faces challenges in increasing its political influence. Delegate Craig Blair, who won a Senate seat in November, says one barrier is the Eastern Panhandle's distance from Charleston. "To put it in perspective, when we're in Charleston, the Eastern Panhandle -- Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan County -- is not even on the weather map," Blair, R-Berkeley, told The Journal. "That creates an artificial barrier, and it makes it difficult. And that's where having your representation increase brings greater awareness," he said. Blair and Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, say another challenge is the region's predominantly Republican representatives. Republicans gained seats in both the Senate and the House in the general election but Democrats still control the two chambers.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Baltimore firm aims to turn food waste into green business Chesapeake Compost Works operating in Curtis Bay warehouse. Many people see Thanksgiving leftovers as too much of a good thing and toss them out. Vinnie Bevivino wants those uneaten castoffs and more — he sees a chance to make some green with them while going green.

MARYLAND GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

Frederick teen takes top prize in recycling photo contest Her artistry and creativity in depicting how anyone of any age can recycle turned out to be the winning combination for 16-year-old Sophia Smith of Frederick. Sophia, a student at Frederick High School, was the grand-prize winner in Frederick County's "Put It In The Blue" recycling photo contest. Sophia won a portrait photography package worth \$600 and a \$200 Marriott gift card. Her winning photo depicts her nephew, a toddler, reaching up while putting trash into the county's blue recycling cart. "We liked how it showed that anyone can recycle," said Annmarie Creamer, the county's recycling outreach program coordinator. "We loved the baby. It was very artistic and conveyed the message of recycling." The Frederick County Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management received 27 entries, which can be viewed on www.Facebook.com/FrederickRecycles.

VIRGINIA

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

VIMS to study how micoplastic debris affects marine life A seabird snared by plastic six-pack rings, plastic pellets filling up a fish's stomach — such images aren't new. But what happens when tons of plastic debris slowly break down in the open ocean and leach toxic chemicals, furnish an unnatural reef for microbes or get gobbled up by marine life, from plankton on up the food chain, is far less understood. We also don't know what plastics — broken into tiny brittle bits or pulverized to powder — wreak on the marine ecosystem when they settle into Chesapeake Bay sediment or mingle with beach sand. Rob Hale at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point hopes to rectify that. "I'm interested in the stuff that might reside in sediments and up in coastal sediments (or) end up on the shoreline, which gives greater potential exposure to whatever lives there," said Hale, an environmental chemist. "Local filter feeders would be potentially exposed to these elevated levels of particles and be more vulnerable. Oysters, which filter feed, zooplankton, which support the food chain, could potentially be affected. The interesting thing is, no one's really looked at that." Hale is seeking funding to do so, perhaps in collaboration with Tracy Mincer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. Mincer just launched a three-year research project to study the role of microbes on larger plastic debris caught in the currents and gyres of the open sea. Hale invited Mincer to speak at VIMS recently on that work.

NASA Langley to help monitor the daily evolution of pollution It's routine to turn to a television station or link to a website to watch the weather evolve for hours in real time. In a few years, with the help of scientists at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, you may be able to tune in and watch the evolution of key air pollutants throughout the day over North America and, perhaps, the world. "This is not measuring clouds, but measuring chemistry," said atmospheric scientist David Flittner, who is part of a team chosen to help put a pollution sensor into geostationary orbit 22,000 miles above the United States. Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution — or TEMPO — will provide accurate hourly observations for the first time of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, formaldehyde and aerosols. The troposphere is the lowest layer of Earth's atmosphere, reaching from ground level to about 65,000 feet above sea level. Technology now in place provides more limited data on air

quality, offering measurements just once a day from satellite-based sensors moving in sun-sync orbit around the planet, said Flittner. Such measurements are usually taken around noon over a specific region. "But the air quality changes throughout the course of the day," Flittner said. "From the beginning of the morning to the late afternoon, it can change dramatically." Motorists on morning and evening commutes or power plants revving up to meet power demands, for instance, can greatly alter the chemistry of the troposphere, he said. TEMPO, locked in orbit overhead, will be able to capture those changes in real time.

ROANOKE TIMES

Future holds promise for Mountain Lake PEMBROKE -- Again and again, the rifle-shot sound of Miles Costello hitting a sledgehammer against a small metal plate set on the ground echoed over the dry bottom of Mountain Lake on a recent day. A few feet away, Radford University geology instructor George Stephenson watched a computer screen register not the hammer blows, but their echoes moving through rocks underground. Those sound waves, when compiled by a computer, can yield images of what lies beneath the lake bottom, giving scientists new information about how the Giles County lake was formed thousands of years ago, and why every now and then it dries up completely only to refill and begin the cycle again. Costello, a Radford undergraduate, and Stephenson are part of a research team led by Radford engineering geology professor Skip Watts that for the past two years has worked to answer these old questions about the lake. The seismic imaging that Costello and Stephenson were doing is one of several tests the team has done since the lake drained completely in 2008 -- an exciting development for researchers but a stressful one for the resort. But the team's findings may point to a way to bring back the lake without damaging its ecology, a welcome thought for those who depend on the well-known resort's prosperity. And the new information comes at an opportune time, just as the nonprofit group that owns the resort is planning a comprehensive overhaul, from installing a new governing board and hiring a new resort manager, to sprucing up guest rooms and cottages and bringing new businesses to the mountain.

Acid leak contributes to I-81 slowdown in Rockbridge County An estimated 28 gallons of acrylic acid leaked from a 55-gallon drum inside a truck traveling north on Interstate 81 in Rockbridge County, causing emergency responders to close Exit 195 for several hours Saturday. Most of the spilled acid was contained inside the truck, said Robert Foresman, emergency management coordinator for Rockbridge County. A hazardous materials team from Harrisonburg responded and determined that one of the 26 drums of acid being transported inside the truck had leaked, Foresman said. The leak was first spotted around mile marker 176, but only a small amount of acid was believed to have spilled outside the truck, he said. An evacuation was unnecessary, and travelers were not in danger, Foresman said. "It was probably such a small amount as it was coming out that as long as they are in their cars they will be fine," he said. Still, the incident likely contributed to a four-mile delay at the same location that was reported by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Foresman said drivers traveling in the already congested part of the highway were slowing down to gawk at the situation, which drew several emergency response vehicles and personnel.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

Va. to study effects of dredging for blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Virginia is paying for a scientific study to determine how harmful dredging for blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay may be to the ecosystem and crab population. State regulators have a moratorium on winter dredging because they contend that it protects hibernating females and allows the next generation of crabs to be born in the spring. But watermen want it lifted, saying the harmful effects of dredging have long been exaggerated. Watermen say sportsfishing and environmental groups have unfairly painted their industry as harmful, and they contend the study will shed scientific light on dredging. "You have mortality rates with any fishery," waterman James Dean Close said. "Ours has been totally exaggerated by these special-interest groups." The Virginian-Pilot reports (<http://bit.ly/TjhcNu>) that state regulators have pledged more than \$130,000 toward the study. The study will be overseen by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. It will pay four watermen to dredge as many as 40 bushes of crabs a day that they can sell for a profit. Among other things, officials and regulators on board the boats want to see how the dredges tear up mud, sand and underwater grasses and whether the dredges maim crabs.

Wind turbines popping up at some Virginia schools WOODSTOCK, Va.-- Wind turbines are popping up at some schools in Virginia. The Daily News-Record (<http://bit.ly/XOJogt>) reports one wind turbine was installed in the past week both at Central High School in Woodstock and at Thomas Harrison Middle School in Harrisonburg. The turbines were built as part of James Madison University's Wind for Schools program, which had already two other turbines for school use. Shenandoah County Public Schools finance director Jeremy Raley says the Central High turbine will generate enough electricity to power one classroom. But he says the turbine was meant to educate students about using wind as a sustainable energy source.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Rural Communities Say They Cannot Afford Chesapeake Bay Controls Rural communities in New York say they are in a bind when it comes to accessing funding for infrastructure upgrades to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges from their wastewater treatment plants to meet the total maximum daily load plan for the Chesapeake Bay, according to a recent National Rural Water Association survey. The association, which represents rural water utilities' interests, surveyed the towns of Cortland, Hamilton, and Marcellus and found that all three towns were ill-equipped to finance expansion or upgrading of wastewater treatment plants to cut discharges of the nutrients, Mike Keegan, the group's policy analyst, told BNA Nov. 20. NRWA said Marcellus would incur \$2 million, while Hamilton would incur \$6 million in costs to add technologies at wastewater treatment plants to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges to meet the state share of the TMDL plan for the Chesapeake Bay. The survey was conducted Nov. 13-14, according to the association. Keegan said the association found that the experience of the rural communities in not being able to afford the costly upgrades to wastewater treatment plants to meet nutrient limits was not unique to New York.

"It is a complaint that we are increasingly hearing from communities all over as more and more total daily maximum load plans are being developed and implemented," Keegan said. A TMDL plan calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive from a point source, such as a wastewater treatment plant, and a nonpoint source, such as a farm, and still meet water quality standards. New York, five other states, and the District of Columbia are obligated to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loading to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries under an EPA-ordered total maximum daily load plan. Nitrogen and phosphorus discharges cause algal blooms in water that in turn lead to low oxygen levels and fish kills

EPA Plans Technical Assistance on Integrated Pest Management in Schools EPA plans to provide schools with technical assistance and resources to promote development of integrated pest management programs, according to a new agency document. EPA seeks to build partnerships with other EPA school-related programs, other federal agencies, and states and nongovernmental organizations to work toward the goal of covering all children by a verifiable and ongoing school integrated pest management program. IPM combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to control pests in order to minimize economic, health, and environmental risks.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will U.S. role at climate talks change after storm. DOHA, Qatar -- During a year with a monster storm and scorching heat waves, Americans have experienced the kind of freakish weather that many scientists say will occur more often on a warming planet. And as a re-elected president talks about global warming again, climate activists are cautiously optimistic that the U.S. will be more than a disinterested bystander when the U.N. climate talks resume Monday with a two-week conference in Qatar. "I think there will be expectations from countries to hear a new voice from the United States," said Jennifer Morgan, director of the climate and energy program at the World Resources Institute in Washington. The climate officials and environment ministers meeting in the Qatari capital of Doha will not come up with an answer to the global temperature rise that is already melting Arctic sea ice and

permafrost, raising and acidifying the seas, and shifting rainfall patterns, which has an impact on floods and droughts. They will focus on side issues, like extending the Kyoto protocol -- an expiring emissions pact with a dwindling number of members -- and ramping up climate financing for poor nations. They will also try to structure the talks for a new global climate deal that is supposed to be adopted in 2015, a process in which American leadership is considered crucial. Many were disappointed that Obama didn't put more emphasis on climate change during his first term. He took some steps to rein in emissions of heat-trapping gases, such as sharply increasing fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks. But a climate bill that would have capped U.S. emissions stalled in the Senate.